

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7033

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 5103

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, NP

SUBJECT: WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECTS IN GREATER KATHMANDU
AND POKHARA

REF: STATE 239261

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET DECEMBER 5 WCQH CHARLES LERRICK, VICE PRESIDENT, ENGINEERING-SCIENCE, INC., WHO WAS IN KATHMANDU TO PURSUE HIS FIRM'S INTEREST IN DOING DESIGN WORK FOR THE KATHMANDU VALLEY WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT. LERRICK SAID THAT GON HAD SENT INQUIRIES TO VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING FIRMS CONCERNING DESIGN PHASE OF WATER PROJECT. LERRICK SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT GON UNHAPPY WITH PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY DONE BY BINNEY (U.K.) AND GON THEREFORE WISHED OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS DESIGN PHASE WITH OTHER FIRMS. LERRICK SAID SEVERAL OTHER US COMPANIES HAD BEEN ENT INQUIRIES BY GON, BUT THAT HIS COMPANY WAS ONLY ONE PRESENTLY INTERESTED IN PROJECT. IN ADDITION TO ENGINEERING-SCIENCE, FOUR OTHER FIRMS WERE INTERESTED IN DOING DESIGN WORK: ITAL COVUT (ITALY; CORE AND STOREY (CANADA); SUICO (SWEDEN); BINNEY (U.K.).

2. GON HAS SET DEADLINE OF DECEMBER 23 FOR SUBMISSIONS BY FIRMS INTERESTED IN DESIGN PHASE, WITH CONSTRUCTION TENDERS FOR KATHMANDU WATER SUPPLY PROJECT HOPEFULLY TO BE ISSUED SIX MONTHS AFTER SELECTION OF DESIGN CONTRACTOR TENDERS FOR POKHARA AND KATHMANDU VALLEY SEWERAGE PROJECTS WOULD FOLLOW SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

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3. BASED ON HIS CONVERSATIONS HERE LERRICK BELIEVES THAT ENGINEERING-SCIENCE AND BINNEY HAVE INSIDE TRACK. BECAUSE, HOWEVER, OF GON DISATTISFACTION WITH BINNEY THAT LERRICK HAS NOTED HERE, HE FEELS THAT HIS FIRM HAS GOOD CHANCE TO LAND CONTRACT. HE IS NOW WORKING ON DESIGN PROPOSALS WHICH HE INTENDS TO SUBMIT TO GON PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE.

4. EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASXWQTANCE TO ALL US FIRMS INTERESTED IN IBRD WATER SEWERAGE PROJECT. LERRICK ALCAEMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER PLAN REMAIN IN CONTACT SO THAT EMBASSY CAN ASSIST ENGINEERING-SCIENCE WHICH IS ONLY US FIRM TO OUR KNOWLEDGE INTERESTED IN PRESENT PHASE OF WATER-SEWERAGSLPROJECT. CARGO

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